

Editorial Copy.


The Ryedale Historian

Number 23

2006-2007



*Helmsley Archaeological
and Historical Society*



*Cover illustration: Howsham Mill: North Elevation
Photograph possibly taken during the late 1930's.
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Historical Society

The Ryedale Historian

Number 23

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Editorial

Time, in today's society, is a valuable commodity and the editor would like to express her sincere thanks to all the contributors to *The Ryedale Historian* No: 23. With the numerous commitments that life demands, one must not forget the energy and dedication that these voluntary contributions represent. Additional thanks are expressed to Madge Allison and George and Pat Donnor for their help with *John McDonnell: a bibliography*.

Readers will note the adoption of a full-page format. This decision was taken to avoid fragmenting the structural layout of contributions and it is hoped that this will not spoil readers enjoyment of this issue.

From its inception in 1965, a philosophy of *The Ryedale Historian* has been the provision of an open forum for readers, irrespective of their occupational or professional grouping, to share their passion and interests in Ryedale and the surrounding locality.¹ This philosophy, which is evident in the preface of '*A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District*' (1963, ix) could arguably have been inherited from the Society's founding members Raymond Hayes and Tony Pacitto, and in particular from its editor, the late John McDonnell (1922 – 2005).

John, who edited *The Ryedale Historian* from 1965 – 1991 had an open and honest approach to editing – often willing to voice his concerns regarding the destruction of the archaeological and historical landscape.² However, for those who never had the opportunity or pleasure of meeting him it is hoped that the obituaries by Jean Storror and Anne Taylor, will give readers an insight into the life of a learned and private individual who had the innate ability and gift to inspire and enthuse. These qualities were also evident in his professional life. From 1954 – 1987 John taught French and Spanish at Ampleforth College and was appointed Joint Head of Modern Languages from 1964 to 1982.³ John was also a profuse writer, as well as being editor; he was himself a contributor of numerous articles to *The Ryedale Historian*, *Northern History Review* as well as *Country Life*! In 1985 he gained an MA in Medieval Studies from York University.⁴ A bibliography of John's research interests, which is by no means complete, is on page 47. It is hoped that a day in 'memory and honour of John McDonnell' will be held at a date and venue to be announced.

John recognised the need for change and the Society welcomes the affiliation of the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group (RVBMRG). The first contribution by Richard Myerscough details their aims, research, membership and ongoing projects. This is a multi-disciplined proactive group; it is also inter-disciplinary, integrating both the sciences and the arts, and practical – from surveying buildings, identifying source quarries and promoting the potential of local building materials. Richard is currently preparing a report on the potential of stone sources (personal communication January 2006). Readers should note that Edward Freedman has been appointed temporary coordinator of the group and can be contacted on: e.freedman@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk.

The importance of Graham Lee's contribution '*A Framework for Archaeological Research and Management in the North York Moors National Park*' cannot be overstated. It is the culmination of several years work involving input from the archaeological community. It is explicit, regarding the current state of knowledge and understanding of the archaeological and historical resource of the National Park. '*A Framework*' identifies priorities for research,

management and conservation; hence it is broad both chronologically and thematically. Readers will no doubt be aware of the challenges that face Britain's National Parks – such as access, funding to the effects of natural (e.g. erosion) and cultural (e.g. human activity) formation processes. Therefore, as Graham states in his introduction, 'A Framework' is progressive looking and in order to realise its potential, it requires continual modification and development. The Society wishes Graham every success.

The next contribution '*How I spent my Holiday*' written by Mary Thompson in 1908, is extracted from the Eric Blades Collection, collated by Jim Halliday. The collection is predominantly pictorial being postcards and photographs of Ryedale and surrounding locality from around the first half of the twentieth century (see page 26). Mary's letter is an intriguing document, describing the return journey from Lockton to Hartlepool. It describes aspects of social life, from the hardships experienced by the working classes to the structural force of religion, as well as leisure.

The next two contributions represent the achievements of community involvement. The first, Tony Wright's '*Sheriff Hutton Park Parliamentary Survey*' has arisen from his involvement with the Sheriff Hutton Women's Institute Community Pale Project (see J. P. G. Taylor's review). Tony's transcription provides a 'glimpse' into economic life (detailing the transition of deer park to small country estate), and also into the political machinations of the period and the social division of space. The second '*Howsham Mill*' by Jeannie Swales is an ongoing project, whose aim is the restoration and adaptive re-use of a historic building to provide renewable hydro-electric energy, for the local community of Howsham.

Unashamedly, the review section is dominated by Society members' publications. Additional information by '*Water from the Moors*' author Isabel McLean follows the review by Anne Taylor. Sadly Isabel died very recently.

Finally the Society welcomes Robin Wardell who replaces Judith Prickett as Honorary Chairman. The Society expresses their gratitude to Judith for her commitment and involvement over the past few years.

Readers who have comments on any aspect of this issue, or wish to publish their own material in the next, please contact me.

Carol Colbourne

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the appropriate references and acknowledgments are correct prior to publication. Any omissions or errors are apologised for in advance.

¹ See John McDonnell's editorial in *The Ryedale Historian* No: 1 1965, 4.

² McDonnell, J. (1990-1991) 'editorial', *The Ryedale Historian* No: 15, 4.

³ <http://www.ampleforth.org.uk/OANews/html/JohnMcdonnell.html> Page consulted 23 December 2005

⁴ *ibid.*

John McDonnell: an appreciation

by Jean M. Storrow

John McDonnell was an early and committed member of the young Helmsley Archaeological Society (then the Helmsley and Area Group of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society), one of a band of enthusiasts who were responsible for promoting the archaeological study of this area. The present Society owes an incalculable debt to him and his colleagues for their dedication.

John will be particularly remembered as the editor of '*A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx, and District*', now recognised as the standard work on the subject, published in 1963. The *History* is no dry-as-dust account of the place and its neighbourhood. It creates a fascinating tapestry of all its various aspects, is full of lively comment, anecdotes and revelations as well as straightforward facts and figures. That it is such an excellent piece of work must in large part be credited to John. As editor he had the task of getting the best and most knowledgeable contributors and of welding their contributions into a cohesive volume. This John did with notable success. The *History* covers a great variety of relevant matters; not only archaeology in considerable detail, but also matters of more general interest. To many of these John was also contributor; the article on Bilsdale was his work, as were those on the Manor Courts and some of the prominent families of the district.

John's enthusiasm and knowledge of his subjects spring from the page; to hear him talk about them was equally riveting for his hearers. John was particularly interested in the local roads and communications. It was fascinating to learn where the old roads ran and how Helmsley used to be connected to the wider world. Many of the present roads are of relatively recent date, the roads in earlier times tending to keep to the higher ground (until recently the track over Rudland Rigg was signposted 'Stokesley 19 miles'). Working out how and where the various tracks ran and how the network functioned must have taken much of John's time and energy, but he has added enormously to our understanding and pleasure. Knowledgeable though he was, he always welcomed the contributions of others and encouraged them to investigate possible paths for themselves, sharing in their satisfaction at their discoveries. Not all the old tracks are still walkable, but many are, and the consciousness that one is following the ancient ways adds greatly to the enjoyment of local walks.

One of John's interests was the water systems of Byland Abbey, and on one memorable occasion he led a group of Society members on an exploration of the canals and waterways which supplied the Abbey. It says much for John's ability to enthuse his listeners that the group followed him round Byland on a cold damp miserable evening, with no fallers by the wayside.

Like all local societies, the then Helmsley Archaeological Society was run by a committee, which organised the meetings, found the monthly speakers and dealt with general administration. In this again John took a part, and served the Society faithfully on its committee for significant part of its existence. It is thanks to members such as John that the Society is as flourishing as it is to-day, and it is right that it should remember John with the greatest respect and gratitude.

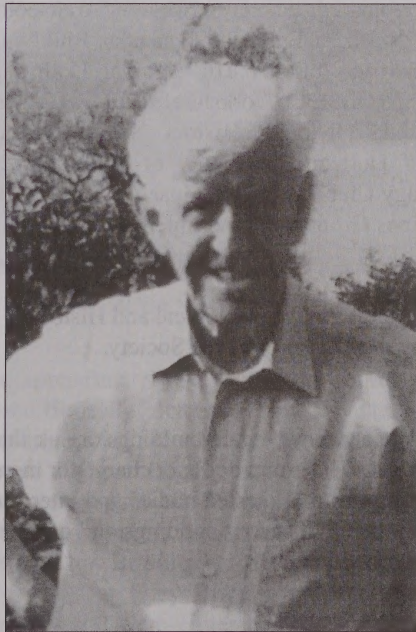
John McDonnell

by Anne Taylor

When in 1990 John McDonnell signified his desire to give up editing *The Ryedale Historian* for domestic reasons, there were no takers for the office. Hardly surprising since in the course of bringing out all 15 issues since it began in 1965 he had put the stamp of his academic experience upon it. He was, besides, the moving spirit behind the now rare and justly famous 'A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District' published by Helmsley Archaeological Society in 1963.

No one had come forward by the time I joined the Society in that year and I heard the appeal for a volunteer to replace John, which had become an all too regular feature of the Chairman's Notices at the beginning of each meeting. Someone said 'You're a journalist. Why not you?' Driven by ignorance of what had gone before I agreed. John was not the only member of the Society who, in the knowledge that I was a newspaper reporter, feared for the standing of the *Historian* which he had taken such pains to establish and of which the Society was rightly proud. Others voiced their misgivings but John never allowed this to become evident to me. Instead he gave me constant and unobtrusive support, always responding when asked for advice; occasional doubt and disapproval being conveyed by a silence whose significance I quickly came to recognise.

He seemed to me an austere man who hated fuss. That being so he and I were both nervous as the time approached when the first issue after his retirement would be expected to pay tribute to his Editorship. I knew it must not be overdone. Witness my relief when having read the proof he offered the verdict – 'That was just about all right'!



John McDonnell

22nd August 1922 – 31st May 2005

Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group

by Richard Myerscough.

Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group

Centre for Lifelong Learning (University of Hull)

Introduction

The Group was formed in 2000 as a multi discipline Research Group to bring together groups, societies, institutions and individuals who had an interest in the Vernacular Buildings of Ryedale, North Yorkshire and in particular the building stones and source quarries.

The Aims of the Group are to:

- survey, identify and record features of vernacular buildings in the study areas
- identify the rock groups used in their construction
- relate building materials to local geology
- identify source quarries for the building materials
- survey and record sites as potential RIGS (**Regionally Important Geological Sites**)
- provide a sample collection of local building stones for Local Authorities
- provide rock descriptions/identification for potential surveyors
- raise awareness of the educational value of local building materials, including brick and tiles
- create a data base of relevant publications and geo-historical sites

Membership. At present the Group is made up of representatives from:

British Geological Survey; Building Architects; Building Surveyors and Valuers; Dartmouth Naval College; East Riding Archaeological Society; Ed Dennison Archaeological Services; English Heritage; Fox Foundation for Combined Sciences; Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society; Hull Geological Society;; Malton Archaeological Partnership; North Yorkshire County Council; Northern England Vernacular Buildings Group; North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority; National Trust; Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges; Ryedale District Council; North East Yorkshire Geology Trust (formerly Ryedale and Scarborough (RIGS)); Ryedale Natural History Society; Stone Roofing Association; Stonemasons; University of Durham; University of Hull; University of Oxford; Victoria County History; York Geology Club; Yorkshire Museum Trust; Yorkshire Geological Society; Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Group and other interested individuals and parties.

Affiliation

The group is affiliated with Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society and has a separate funding account managed by the Treasurer of the Society.

Education

The Group now has a web site at www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk that is regularly updated and members are encouraged to visit. The group does not charge for membership but actively seeks funding, grants and sponsorship from interested bodies and interested sources. Each year the group has a Field Work Programme to survey buildings and quarries with reports available to both members and other interested bodies.

Projects

The group has been involved in a number of projects and copies of the reports are available from Edward Freedman (temporary coordinator).

Birdsall Calcareous Grit Project

This rock has been classified as a 'high status' building stone, i.e. it has been used/reused to build high status buildings such as churches and country houses. Birdsall Calcareous Grit was formed in shallow coastal seas of the Late Jurassic (140 mya) as a medium grained brown sand cemented by the calcareous skeletons (spicules) of sponges, and contains marine fossils such as ammonites, shells and black worm tubes. The type quarries are at Birdsall with others in the area of Acklam and Leavening, with the possibility of quarries at Filey Brigg. Unfortunately they are all disused and over grown; consequently replacement stone is no longer available for the repair of churches and other buildings. Birdsall Calcareous Grit has an unfortunate weakness in that the calcareous cement is broken down by acid rain and is often replaced by alien stonework.

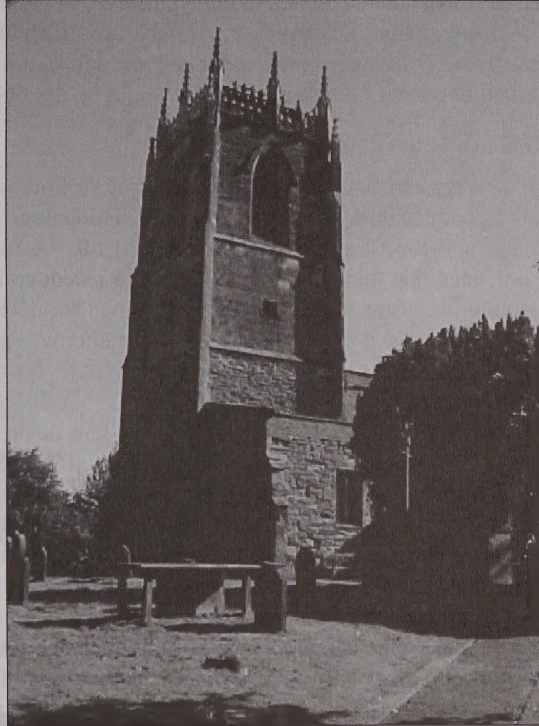


Figure 1. Holme on Spalding Moor Church, with mixed ashlar blocks

Church Studies

Field work has shown that approximately 90% of Wold Churches are constructed wholly or partly from primary or reused Birdsall Calcareous Grit. The churches range in age from Saxon to Victorian possibly indicating a long life span for the quarries. It is difficult to imagine the technology used to extract and transport large amounts of stone across the Wolds especially for the older churches. However several recent findings may suggest that some of the churches were built from older buildings including Roman and later Monastic buildings. The furthest easterly church built of Birdsall is Bridlington Priory and recently found medieval records suggest that there were quarries at Filey Brigg where the Birdsall Calcareous Grit also outcrops. Other churches surveyed were either built in Victorian times from stone, mainly 'imported' from the West Riding or older churches constructed from a wide range of rock types either from glacial material or reused stone from older buildings.

Hildenley Limestone

Another high status building stone noted for its fine texture, making it ideal for carving as well as for building. Once again there is much evidence for its use/reuse and isolated blocks are being found in many churches and other buildings across the Wolds. The type quarries are only found at Hildenley and present field work has identified a number of quarries with the oldest being of Roman date for statues and the youngest of mid- nineteenth century for the inside of South Dalton Church.

Hildenley Limestone is another Late Jurassic rock formed this time within a quiet faulted trench into which very fine particles of lime (80-90%) from storm surges were laid down, hence making it an ideal stone for carvings and buildings. Unfortunately the few fossils found in the limestone are preserved as silica, which resulted in blunt chisels! As a consequence it has been used/reused for high and low status buildings all over the area including examples in the Bridlington area. Often during building surveys, especially of high status buildings, Hildenley Limestone can be recorded because of its absence, i.e. it would be the first stone to be robbed out.

A new line of research is to try and find a non destructive way of finding the composition of pre-historic 'chalk-like' figurines some of which may be of Hildenley. Examples are to be found in Malton Museum and the East Riding Museum in Hull. A recent analysis of the 'Folkton Drums' has confirmed that they are of chalk. A more recent complication has arisen over Caen Limestone from France (much favoured by the Norman builders) and Hildenley may have been used as a substitute or Caen may have been used as an alternative.

Brandsby Roadstone and Slate

A low status building stone of the Middle Jurassic (160mya), laid down along the fringes of tropical coastal swamps and only found in the area of Brandsby and Yearsley where it outcrops between thicker beds of channel sandstones (but no dinosaur tracks have been found as yet), which have also been used for building stone. Little is really known about the quarrying of the roadstone and slate and all the small quarries located so far are overgrown. The roadstone is a hard dark blue-grey limestone that breaks into flat pieces approximately 1-2 cms thick hence its use as roadstone prior to tarmac. It is widely seen in the local area of outcrop in dry stone walls where the flat pieces make ideal stone. There is little evidence for it being used away from the area of outcrop.



Figure 2. Brandsby Slate, Abbey House, Malton

The Brandsby 'Slate' (Figure: 2) is not a true slate but a thinly bedded limestone, which was originally used for roofing local houses and high status buildings such as manor houses, castles and churches. However at present there is much debate about the description of Brandsby Slate as seen on older buildings; in some cases the 'slates' are of flags from the West Riding. As with Hildenley Limestone the 'slate' roofs would be robbed out for reuse from redundant buildings, for example Sheriff Hutton Castle. At present we have only identified a small number of buildings roofed by slate and occasionally single examples turn up in walls and rubble heaps. We are probably too late to know the real extent of use as many of the buildings are now re-roofed with flags or more likely pantiles.

Castles



Figure 3. Sheriff Hutton Castle with ashlar blocks of Dogger

Sheriff Hutton Castle

The work here is still ongoing and we continue to find more questions than answers! We are now certain that the source quarries are at Mowthorpe where the Dogger (Middle Jurassic) outcrops, but unfortunately the Dogger is not similar to other local examples since it contains fossils found in another Middle Jurassic rock known as the Whitwell Oolite. Quoins and window/door reveals are often of Middle Jurassic channel sandstones probably from quarries in the area of Snargate. We are still not certain how the stone was transported from the quarries to the Castle but it could have been over a post glacial lake, the history of which is currently unknown. Within the Mowthorpe valley there are a number of archaeological sites that may be associated with the building of the Castle, such as bloomery sites. The Church is very interesting being built of a wide range of rock types including Birdsall Calcareous Grit, Hildenley Limestone, Dogger, Malton Oolite and Channel Sandstones.

Crayke Castle

Situated further along the ridge from Sheriff Hutton this imposing Castle is still occupied and is constructed of Middle Jurassic channel sandstones quarried on site even though they are not shown on the present Geological Survey Map. The Church appears to have been built of the

same rock type although some of the blocks could be Birdsall Calcareous Grit, whilst the churchyard wall is a dry stone wall of Brandsby Calcareous Grit.



Figure 4. Crayke Castle with Middle Jurassic channel sandstones

Slingsby Castle

An unfinished ruin that needs further study but at present we cannot get permission to legally enter it. The building stones appear to be Late Jurassic Malton Oolite, with some Birdsall Calcareous Grit and records of Hildenley Limestone. We have however solved the mystery of the folk-tale about the 'Slingsby Worm' from the historical finds of Dinosaur teeth and bones. The local Church is built of Birdsall Calcareous Grit.

Helmsley Castle

The group was invited to survey the Castle by English Heritage and the report will be published next year. The main ashlar building stones are of Late Jurassic Malton Oolite and Coral Rag, with quoins and window reveals of Middle Calcareous Grit (similar to Birdsall Calcareous Grit). There is further work to be done here. The local Church appears to be constructed of Middle Calcareous Grit.

Houses

The group has surveyed a number of high status houses. As with castles and churches these buildings stand out in the landscape and the best local high status building stones were used wherever possible.

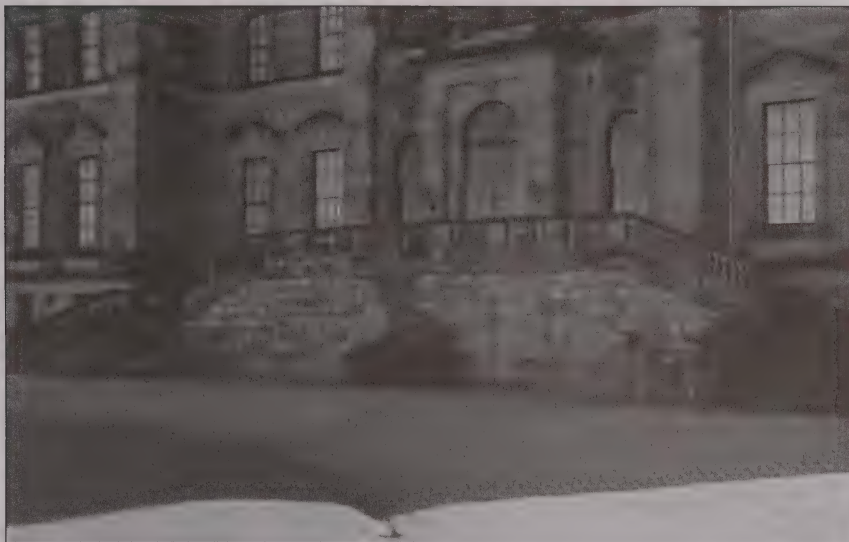


Figure 5. Duncombe Park, showing oldest wall in Middle Calcareous Grit

Duncombe Park

The House was rebuilt following a fire in the nineteenth century using ‘imported’ sandstones probably from the West Riding. The original house was built from Middle Calcareous Grit from the quarries below the house, which expose the longest lateral section known in North Yorkshire, with Hambleton Oolite below and Malton Oolite above.

Hovingham Hall

The group was invited to survey the Hall by Dr Giles Worsley (who sadly died recently) and work is on going to identify the main building stones and their source quarries. The Church is fascinating and probably contains more individual rock types than any other church presently surveyed. These probably came from local quarries in the area and from deposits of glacial drift with evidence of reuse from earlier buildings, including a Roman villa. It is interesting to note, once again, the reuse of Roman stonework.

Settrington House

The group was invited by Sir Richard Storey to survey the House and Church and to recommend future sources of building stone for repairs to existing fabric. Both the Church and House are built of Birdsall Calcareous Grit, whilst low status out-buildings were of Malton Oolite and Coral Rag. The local geology was not favourable for buildings due to the Late Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay being very prone to slippage. A number of quarries in Malton Oolite and Coral Rag were surveyed as potential stone sources.

Nunnington Hall

The group was invited by The National Trust to survey the Hall and to identify local quarries as potential sources for building stone. The main building stone of the front was a very fine oolitic limestone, which was finally identified as Malton Oolite, which was still exposed in the old quarries at Ness Bank. More shelly and tougher limestone from the Ness Shell Bed was



Figure 6. Nunnington Hall, with ashlar of Malton Oolite from Ness

found to the rear of the hall and in some parts of the garden walls. Gate arches and pillars were of a Calcareous Grit (still to be identified). Once again the Church at Nunnington is a mixture of many rock types some of which are local and others from glacial drift. One rock of interest is a red desert sandstone either from the Vale of York or the Vale of Eden in the North West. This is the third church with this rock within its ashlar, the others being at Hovingham and Holme on Spalding Moor churches.

References

The following list is by no means complete and many of the references are difficult to find:

Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group Reports

- 2001 Wharram area Field Report
- 2001 Leavening Field Report
- 2002 Birdsall Field Report
- 2002 Acklam and Leavening
- 2003 Hildenley and Slingsby Field Report
- 2003 Sheriff Hutton Castle and Mowthorpe Quarries
- 2003 Settrington and Quarries
- 2004 Sheriff Hutton Castle and High Stittenham

Reports in Preparation

2005 Crayke Castle
2005 Duncombe Park
2005 Helmsley Castle
2005 Mowthorpe Bloomery site
2005 Nunnington Hall and Church

Bibliography

Kent.1980. *British Regional Geology. Eastern England from the Tees to the Wash*. HMSO
Senior. J 1990 (in Stone. Parsons Ed) *Hildenley Limestone. A Fine Quality Dimensional and Artifact Stone from Yorkshire*. Phillimore.
Wright. J.K.1972. The Stratigraphy of the Yorkshire Corallian. *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*.

A Framework for Archaeological Research and Management in the North York Moors National Park

by Graham Lee, Archaeological Conservation Officer for the National Park Authority.

Research frameworks in archaeology have been under development since at least the 1970s, although initially they tended to be topic-based and limited in scope. However, archaeologists have been aware of the need for greater co-ordination of effort for research for many years. Since the publication of "Frameworks for our Past" in 1996, English Heritage has developed the concept of regional research frameworks as a constructive method of contributing to a national framework.¹ This led in 1997 to the establishment of the Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework Forum, formed primarily to provide both local authority archaeologists and the growing numbers of archaeological consultants and contractors with a mechanism for keeping in touch with developments in archaeological research and with standards of best archaeological practice.

Within the North York Moors National Park the process of producing a research framework began in piecemeal fashion, as a way of focusing attention on significant gaps in knowledge as they became apparent. As this document developed and grew, it began to be appreciated that a research framework for the National Park could come to serve as an important strategic document, helping to encourage and direct research in directions that would most benefit priorities set by the Authority.

The Research Framework is consequently the fruition of several years work and is based on a model produced by Exmoor National Park.² It has benefited from the input of a wide range of archaeologists working or interested in the area and a shortened summary is appended to this introduction. It will continue to develop and be modified to take new information into account and to retain its strategic significance. It identifies priorities for research and conservation and these will be used to inform the allocation of funding and staff resources. It has already been used to influence the content of the National Park Authority's Business Plan and has been distributed to a number of organisations and individuals who have expressed an interest in archaeological and historical research and conservation within the National Park.

This document will have been put before the National Park Authority in December 2005 for formal adoption as a guide to future Historic Environment action planning. In the future it will be subject to periodic review. The full framework document and the supporting resource assessment can be made available digitally on request.

Framework for Archaeological Research and Management in the North York Moors National Park 2005–2010 : Summary

1.0 Background

- 1.1** The aim of this framework is to provide an objective review of the archaeological and historical resource of the National Park and to identify priorities for research, management and conservation. This will provide a basis for action planning and resource allocation, and will contribute to the wider Yorkshire (Region) Archaeological Research Framework (YARF).
- 1.2** A research framework is defined as consisting of 3 stages:
- a) Resource assessment – A review of current state of knowledge and description of the archaeological resource.
 - b) Research agenda – Identification of gaps in our knowledge, the work that needs to be done and the potential of the archaeological resource to answer questions.
 - c) Strategy – Identification of priorities and method.
- 1.3** This document aims to provide this information for the North York Moors National Park and identifies the priorities considered to be of National or High Regional Significance in terms of period, rarity and survival. It is important to stress that this Framework is based on current knowledge and understanding, and as such must be viewed as an ‘interim statement’ which will be subject to constant review and updating.

2.0 Process:

- 2.1** Development of the framework has been based on an amended Biodiversity Action Plan process, involving:
- a) Establishment of a Plan Partnership and Peer Review.
 - b) Agreeing Broad Objectives.
 - c) Establishing a database (already in existence).
 - d) Evaluating the cultural heritage resource (resource assessment document).
 - e) Identifying research and conservation/protection priorities within national, regional and local contexts.
 - f) Action planning – Specific proposals and targets.
 - g) Implementation – Identify delivery mechanisms and sources of finance and advice.
 - h) Monitor and review in the light of future research and developments.
- 2.2** Priorities for research and management will be based upon the following criteria:
- existing knowledge and lack of knowledge in specific areas,
 - the presence or absence of recent / current / proposed work,
 - the potential for the sites to provide answers to the research questions being asked,
 - the risk of loss or damage.

3.0 Historic Environment Objectives:

- 3.1** Overarching archaeological objectives for the North York Moors are set out in the National Park Management Plan. These are:
1. To protect and conserve the archaeological resource.
 2. To conserve and enhance archaeological sites and their settings.
 3. To protect and conserve landscapes that are characteristic of the archaeological and historical development of the North York Moors.
 4. To advance archaeological knowledge and raise awareness and understanding of the archaeological and historical resource of the North York Moors.

This framework document establishes an objective process that identifies how these can be progressed.

4.0 Defining the historic environment:

- 4.1** The landscape of the North York Moors National Park has been profoundly shaped by people over the last 10,000 years. The different phases of human activity have all contributed to the variety and special qualities of the landscape, and have produced archaeological and historical sites of National and International significance.
- 4.2** The historic environment comprises the entire historic and prehistoric landscape. This includes archaeological sites and monuments, buried archaeological deposits, waterlogged deposits, historic buildings, field patterns, artefacts, historical sources, customs and traditions, and oral history.
- 4.3** Much of our present knowledge has come from a wide range of research and publication by a small but important group of local archaeologists and historians, many of whom have passed away in recent years. Their contribution to our present appreciation of the resource cannot be overstated and we are very fortunate to have their legacy on which to expand. This considerable body of important previous research should not obscure the fact, however, that there are still many significant gaps in our understanding.

5.0 The Purpose of an Archaeological Research and Management Framework:

- 5.1** The purpose of research into archaeology and the historic environment is to improve our understanding, to educate and inform. This enables us to implement improved management strategies and policies that help conserve the resource. The interpretation that flows from high-quality research helps to shape our view of the North York Moors and its past inhabitants, and to build an appreciation and raise awareness of the special qualities of the place that we are concerned to conserve today.
- 5.2** A research framework is a method of ensuring that the limitations and potential of existing research is understood and the gaps in current knowledge identified. Consequently, new research can be directed towards filling those gaps, and all new knowledge can be placed within its wider context so as to become more effective.

6.0 A Framework for Future Research:

6.1 Vision:

6.1.1 Future research into the historic environment of the North York Moors should encompass the following elements:

- A series of multi-disciplinary research projects, drawing on and helping to develop up-to-date methodologies, carried out by a broad spectrum of individuals, groups and organisations, and which involve the local community wherever appropriate.
- Results of research to be reported and disseminated in a timely fashion, by integration within the Historic Environment Record (HER) and by publication where appropriate.
- A continuing, rigorous re-appraisal of our knowledge.
- Results shall be used to underpin high-quality sustainable management of the historic environment.
- Interpretation that flows from the results should be publicly available and accessible.

6.2 Current State of Knowledge and Ongoing Research:

6.2.1 From the collective results of previous research and survey a great deal of information is currently available on the location and distribution of the area's archaeological resource. This data has been enhanced in recent years by surveys covering forestry and Farm Conservation Scheme areas, and the Fylingdales Fire Site.

6.2.2 Few of these sites, however, have been subject to modern scientific examination or dated by reliable means, including by the study of medieval documents. In addition, few of the large complexes of remains, which are considered to be prehistoric, have been surveyed in sufficient detail to allow phasing and interpretation to be developed. Nor are the settlement sites and houses of the prehistoric population, who created the extensive upland field systems and built the burial mounds, known in any detail.

6.3 Resource Assessment:

6.3.1 In order to provide an overview of current knowledge a detailed resource assessment has been drawn up (available as an appendix to this document). The following sections (6.4 and 6.5) provide a summary of this document and its findings in terms of Key and Further Priorities.

6.4 Key Priorities:

Underlying the research priorities for the North York Moors National Park is the need that new information should continue to be made available and disseminated. Primarily this will be through the continued enhancement of the HER, but this may also include appropriate publication, interpretation and publicity. The overarching research priority identified by the framework process is to address the issue of dating and site definition. Our current understanding and interpretation of many important aspects of the prehistoric

and later archaeology of the North York Moors is based on a series of parallels and assumptions, and is confused – in some instances – by a dependence on unreliable terminology. Key Priorities are therefore:

1. Dating and Definition

Aim: To improve the chronological and terminological framework for archaeological sites and landscapes.

Objective: To increase the number of sites, structures and places dated and described by reliable archaeological methods and terminology.

Actions: Ensure all opportunities to acquire absolute dates, particularly for the prehistoric period, using scientific techniques from secure and reliable contexts, are pursued as part of all approved research and excavation projects undertaken within the North York Moors. To review the resource, particularly of the moorland sites, in order to establish firm definitions, which help to consolidate our understanding; and improve interpretation.

2. Relict Prehistoric Landscapes

Aim: To increase understanding of the use and development of the prehistoric landscapes which survive within the North York Moors.

Objective: To complete multi-disciplinary projects which increase knowledge of the use and development, and improve management and conservation of prehistoric landscapes.

Actions: To encourage and support projects, which increase knowledge and understanding of prehistoric landscapes, in particular those, which provide detailed topographic survey data of moorland sites and complexes. To organise programmes of interpretation in line with National Park objectives.

The North York Moors' relict prehistoric landscapes are a remarkable, nationally important survival but, although they have received considerable study in the past, there is little absolute dating evidence. Many types of sites are dated by comparisons and parallels, and there is a general assumption that the majority of prehistoric field systems are Bronze Age in date. This requires confirmation by detailed survey, selected excavation and analysis of finds and samples.

3. Origin and Development of Settlements

Aim: To increase understanding of the origin and development of settlements within and around the North York Moors, particularly within the prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval periods.

Objective: To understand, record and interpret the origins of existing settlements and settlement patterns, so as to inform the appropriate management of surviving remains.

Actions: To encourage and support projects that investigate settlements and settlement patterns within the North York Moors. To organise programmes of interpretation in line with National Park objectives.

The origin, development and morphology of settlements are central themes to the understanding of the North York Moors' historic environment. Within this area of research, specific topics include:

a) Prehistoric Settlement

There is a distinct lack of known prehistoric house sites and other settlement remains, particularly for the Neolithic period but also unenclosed remains for the Bronze and Iron Ages. The subtle remains from within the Fylingdales Fire Site appear to include important examples.

b) Iron Age enclosures

Hill-forts, promontory forts and hill-top enclosures are relatively rare and poorly understood within the North York Moors. There is a need for follow-up survey and investigation to provide further evidence.

c) Romano-British, Anglian and Early Medieval Settlement

There appears to be a relative dearth of information pertaining to the Roman period. The transition from Late Roman settlement and land use / land tenure patterns to those of the early Middle Ages is little understood. Many Anglian / Anglo-Saxon settlements appear to be founded on new sites, suggesting a major shift in the settlement distribution.

d) Development of Villages

From prehistoric, Romano-British and Early Medieval settlements through to re-designed or newly planned villages around the 12th century. All research into the medieval landscape ideally requires study at township scale, associated with the study and understanding of the relevant documents.

4. **Early Christianity**

Aim: To increase our understanding of the location, origin and development of early Christian sites and remains within the North York Moors.

Objective: To complete multi-disciplinary projects which investigate the location, use, development, management and conservation of early Christian sites and remains.

Action: To encourage and support projects that investigate the location, origin and development of early Christian sites, interpret their findings and assist with the management of remains.

Research is required into the nature and spread of early Christianity within and around the North York Moors. The resource includes nationally and regionally important early churches and monasteries. The latter includes 'lost sites' at Lastingham and Hackness, as well as several of the transitional abbey sites at or around Old Byland and Oldstead (precursors of Byland Abbey). Remains also include significant collections of decorated and inscribed stones, which require appropriate management. Research needs to consider the entirety of the monastic estate. Additional research topics include:

a) Priory and Friary Sites

Nine priory sites and two friary sites are recorded within the North York Moors but, with the exception of Mount Grace Priory, very little appears to be known about these other sites which should be of at least regional, if not national, importance.

5. **Coastal Erosion, Sea-Level Change, and Maritime Archaeology**

Aim: To increase understanding of coastal and off-shore historic landscapes which are threatened by erosion, coastal zone management, exploitation or sea-level rise.

Objective: To record, manage (where practical) and interpret archaeological sites and remains, which are threatened by erosion, coastal zone management, exploitation or sea level rise.

Actions: To assess the on-shore resource in terms of its overall significance and threatened status in order to identify priorities for a recording programme. Participate in the development of a maritime research framework to inform maritime resource recording and assessment projects.

Research is required to record the detail of the remains and phasing of the North York Moors' harbours, docks and rutways prior to their further loss or truncation by coastal erosion or shoreline management. The majority are linked with the nationally important alum and regionally important ironstone industries.

6. Industrial Archaeology

Aim: To interpret and conserve the historic industrial landscape and remains of the North York Moors.

Objective: To increase understanding of key industrial sites, prioritise conservation and recording of the most important and vulnerable remains and improve management, interpretation and access, as appropriate.

Actions: Undertake a review of priority sites to assess requirements and organise programmes of interpretation and consolidation.

The North York Moors' abundant natural resources have been exploited since the earliest periods. In the medieval and post-medieval periods it is important to consider the environmental effects of industry, technology and rising population. Research topics relating primarily to minerals include the alum, iron, lime and glass industries, stone quarrying and pottery/tile/brick production.

7. Farming

Aim: To increase our understanding of the development of the farmed landscape.

Objective: To establish a chronology of farming use, practice and features.

Actions: Encourage and support research projects on identified areas of farmland. Organise programmes of interpretation in line with National Park objectives.

A significant proportion of the land within the North York Moors is, or has been, farmed and the largest-scale changes to the landscape have been caused by farming practices over the millennia. The dales within the North York Moors have an important history as bases for the medieval colonisation of dale and moor by monastic communities, but the earliest date which the dales were cleared and/or drained to be cultivated and settled is still unclear.

6.5 Further Priorities:

The potential for archaeological research is substantial. The priorities identified in 6.4 should form the main thrust of work supported and/or promoted by the NPA. The following broad areas of work will be given consideration should opportunities arise. More detail is provided in the Resource Assessment document.

1. Ritual and Religion

Ritual and religion may be conveniently divided into pre-Christian and Christian. Early Christian appears above within the key research priorities. Further priorities for research include:

a) Stone settings and standing stones

The majority of known examples are Scheduled Monuments and are consequently of national importance. Subjects for study include their date range, physical form, morphology, distribution and relation to other prehistoric features. There is still the potential for further examples, particularly earth-set stones, to be discovered and recorded.

b) Burial mounds: barrows and cairns

The majority of known examples are Scheduled Monuments and are consequently of national importance. Research topics include their physical form, morphology and complexities in their development (where evident), their date range, their function and relationship with other prehistoric features.

2. Communication & Transport

The infrastructure of the historic landscape is fundamental to the way it functions, especially in a remote area such as the North York Moors. An understanding of routeways and their development has to come from an appreciation of the landscape and communities, which they served.

3. Estates and Designed Landscapes

Research is required to characterise the various estates – their architecture, design and designed landscapes – through historical research and fieldwork in order to better influence their future management and interpretation.

4. The Built Environment

Research topics may include recording and promoting traditional building techniques and materials through those who still practice these skills and also through the physical evidence of past methods.

5. Defence and Offence (military and naval)

Topics for research include:

a) Roman

There is a significant framework of military sites known (forts at Cawthorn and Lease Rigg, plus coastal signal stations) but very little contextual information available. The current lack of full and final publication of previous excavations at the important Roman military sites at Cawthorn and Lease Rigg (respectively by English Heritage in 1999–2000 and the late Brian Hartley from 1976 to 1980 via the Dept of Archaeology, Leeds University) is hindering their comparison, understanding and interpretation.

b) Medieval

In the 11th century North Yorkshire was a frontier zone. The need to consolidate Royal authority in the region was marked in the 12th century by the establishment of castles as prominent features in the landscape.

c) World War II

The Moors contain the remains of a significant resource relating to defence and communication, as well as training, much of which has been recorded within the Defence of Britain database, although the latter requires updating and enhancement.

d) Cold War

Recording, management and potential re-use of structures from this period, particularly the ROC bunkers and the guardhouse associated with the ROTOR site at Potato Hill, Goldsborough.³

7.0 Key Methods And Techniques

Despite the considerable body of previous work on the archaeology and history of the North York Moors, there are still significant gaps in our understanding. Many advances in knowledge have also served to heighten our awareness of these deficiencies. New research should be based on best practice and will be supported where it incorporates a wide range of appropriate methods and techniques.

8.0 Partners And Funding

Current funding for research into the North York Moors' historic environment comes from English Heritage, Universities, the North York Moors National Park Authority and the National Trust. Better or fuller use could be made of these, in particular by identifying joint priorities and strengthening partnerships.

9.0 Progressing The Research Framework

9.1 This framework identifies the priority areas for archaeological research and conservation based on our current knowledge and understanding. It is inevitable that these priorities will need to be refined and revised but it is considered that they are currently sufficiently robust to provide a focus for resource allocation. The following are seen as the key actions flowing from the framework:

1. Continue to support the existing range of research and conservation projects as far as time and resources allow.
2. Encourage partners to undertake research and conservation projects that contribute to the Key Priorities (6.4) by providing support, encouraging research proposals, and developing and extending partnerships with academic institutions, agencies, other local authorities, groups and societies, individuals and the local community.
3. Develop and extend funding streams, including seeking external funding, for Key Priority research and conservation projects.
4. Consider supporting research projects contributing to the understanding of subjects covered within the Further Priorities (6.5) where these are likely to build significantly upon existing knowledge.
5. Encourage and support the setting up of local history projects by local groups, communities, archaeological societies and schools where these target Key and Further Priorities.

6. Continue to hold regular meetings of the North York Moors Archaeology Group to report and discuss local developments, oversee and support the implementation of the Framework and to review its priorities and progression.

Comments and information are gratefully acknowledged from John Harrison, Ed Dennison, Gerry McDonnell, Stephen Sherlock, David Cranstone, Stephen Moorhouse, Andrew Jones, Keith Emerick, Catrina Appleby and Peter Barfoot. Particular thanks are due to Blaise Vyner for commenting constructively and at length on numerous drafts of these framework documents.

References

- ¹ Olivier, Adrian. (1996) *Frameworks for Our Past: a review of research frameworks, strategies and perceptions*. English Heritage.
- ² Wilson-North, Rob. 'An Historic Environment Research Framework for Exmoor' http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/historic_environment Page consulted 13th January 2006.
- ³ ROC: Royal Observer Corps; ROTOR: Code name for a top secret Cold War project to provide radar coverage to the eastern seaboard of the UK.

Mary Ellen Thompson: How I spent my holiday 1908 from the Eric Blades Collection

Spelling and grammatical errors in extract as original. A copy of the collection will eventually be housed in the Society's library.

[Page 1]

At last, the long looked for day arrived August 26th amid a down pouring rain I started for my first visit to Farndale, I soon reached Kirby and found Joe waiting, the rain had cleared, when the pony was ready we proceeded our eight miles drive which I enjoyed, especially the Surprise View we suddenly had before us, the women stone brakens [sic] we passed near Gillimoor looked comical and weather beaten, now we are in Farndale, farm houses scattered here and there which makes it quiet picturesque. We turned one corner after another, at last we reached Church Houses, the Church appeared very dilapidated with its roof off, we soon were sat round the supper

[Page 2]

table and I felt at home.
Next morning quiet a bustle was on in the neighbourhood it being the Sunday School Trip, conveyances started by 6 a.m to Kirby for Scarbo [sic] we spent a very quite day though kept occupied and interested with the two little prattlers from South Shields.
The following Saturday Fred and I left at 7 am for Blakey Junction to catch an engine loaded with ironstone from Rosedale mines, by the permission of the Guard along with others were allowed to ride six miles over the moor in the van, as we walked down a terrible incline had a lovely view into Cleveland, mounting in the van again were soon at Battersby where we took tickets

[Page 3]

for Hartlepool. How different our surroundings are, all bustle and noise [sic] the fragrance of the sea breezes were refreshing.
After having dinner our host and hostess took us to witness the Regatta.
Our evening was spent in West Hartlepool, the din in the market, the ride over the ferry were quiet [sic] exciting,
Sunday a glorious morning we began it by a walk along the Promenade [sic] before breakfast. After watching the Church Boys Brigade march to

service, we hurried to the Congregational Chapel
heard a fine sermon.

Afternoon out again this time to the cemetery [sic], round
by the cliffs and nearly caught by the tide.

[Page 4]

Our evening was spent at the Chapel both
services to us were very encouraging and helpfull [sic].

After a walk passed the Band Stand amongst
a huge crowd attracted by the music, retired,
well tired and satisfied,

Monday morning we arose as fresh as the lark
spent most of the day out of doors, simply
delighted to watch the ships passing to and fro
and breathe the sea air.

As the day declined a storm came on, we
could easily see the angry waves enjoying their
frolic from our chairs, the house overlooking the
sea.

To spend the remainder of the day Mr Hall took
us to an Animated Picture Show when returning

[Page 5]

found a hot supper of fish and chips ready which
was delicious.

Tuesday we had our favourite lovely walk on the
Prom [sic], nearly got sprayed with the reckless waves
as they dashed over the sea wall.

Before going to the Station Mrs Hall took us
round the Fish Quay [sic], we were delighted with the
sight and longed for a few hours to watch the
unloading, selling, cleaning and salting process of the fish,
The time had now come to say good bye to all
the wonderfull [sic] sights, Mr and Mrs Hall [were] very
kind we thank them for their hospitality.

Our visit to Hartlepool will haunt our memories
to the end of our lives.

In a short time we were leaving behind us

[Page 6]

the busy town finding ourselves in the quite
country again, still enjoying our noval [sic] ride
over the moor, how different everything appeared
I [sic] still had a few more days holiday every day
I had a nice walk, took a book for a companion
and enjoyed peacefull [sic] scenery.

Saturday afternoon came we had a drive to a
very interesting village called Lastingham, the
old Church being the main object of interest with
its Crypt where several old relics stored.

We obtained tea at a little shop, the drive over the moor being very appetising, we did ample justice . Our return journey was broken at Hutton-le-Hole where we were entertained warmly for a short time. Our afternoon was now fast fading bird and beast had retired for the night, the moon appearing to be our guide, filled our hearts with joy. The next day a beautiful Saboth [sic] morn we entered the house of God refreshed with the morning walk After enjoying a nice dinner did about eight miles up on the hill viewing the

[Page 7]

lovely scenery the length of the Dale before our eyes. For the first time in my life I had the oppertunaty [sic] of seeing how the mines are carried on and the hardships the poor men and horses have to undergo at Sherrif mines, we had a clear view of Rosedale and the so called cast mines in the distance. In the evening we wended our way again to Divine Service, finishing the day by accepting a kind invatation [sic] to supper from Mrs Weldon. Retiring to rest tired and fatigued, failing to express our enjoyment to its fullness.

[Page 8]

Monday Sept [sic] 7th finished my holiday which I shall remember to lifes end, owing my gratitude and earnest thanks to all new acquaintances, everyone I came in contact with was kindness itself.



The Marriage of Fred Handley and Mary Ellen Thompson
at White House Farm (Bungdale Head), Scawton, Thirsk in 1910.

Postcards from the Eric Blades Collection.



Central Stores, Hutton-le-Hole (date unknown)



Kirbymoorside Wesleyan Preachers. 1930.

Note

It is believed that the above photographs were taken by Raymond's father William Hayes (see: Wilson, P (2002 – 2004) 'Raymond Hayes: An appreciation' *The Ryedale Historian*, No: 21, 3-4).

Acknowledgements

Letter and photographs reproduced by kind permission of Mrs Janet Blades (Mary Thompson's niece) and The Ryedale Folk Museum (*Hayes Photographic Collection*).

Sheriff Hutton Park Parliamentary Survey

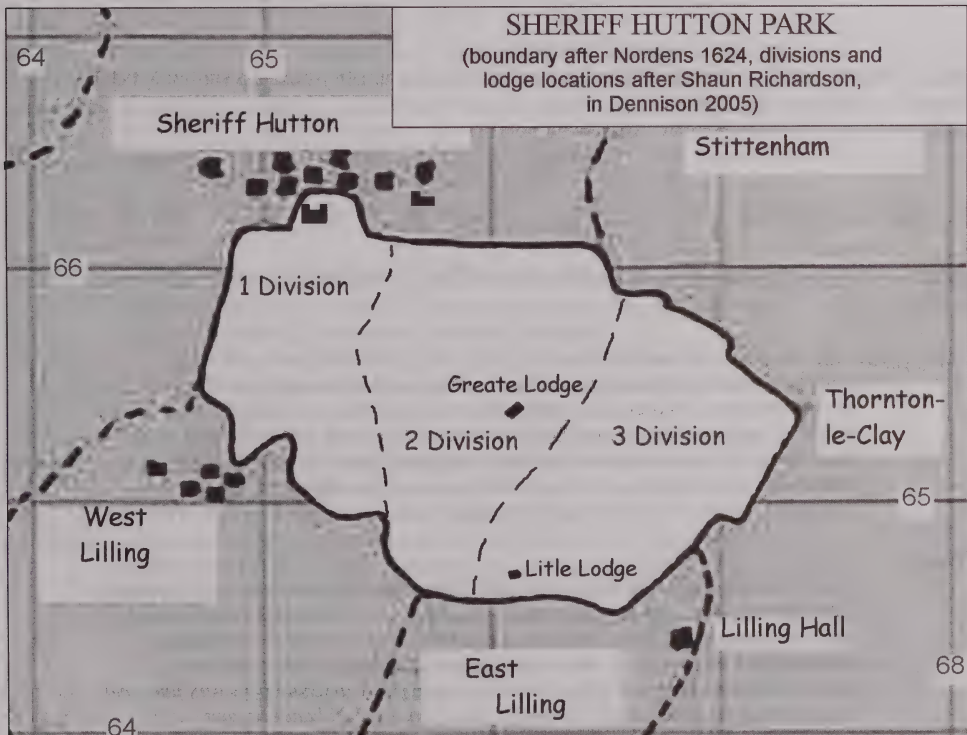
by Tony Wright

Introduction

Amongst the documents transcribed for the Sheriff Hutton Pale Project¹ is the Parliamentary “survey of Sheriffhutton Park” which was made in 1650.² Although a partial transcript and a comparative analysis of the Parliamentary Surveys of the North Riding of Yorkshire had been published by T. S. Willan in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*³, the full transcript enabled the project team to locate the Little Lodge and several boundaries within the Park. It also showed the continuance of several tenants’ rights (“botes”, here written as “bootes”) which most of us associate with mediaeval times (see notes), and provides the first detailed description of Arthur Ingram’s huge hunting lodge.

Background to the Surveys

Following the death of King Charles I, on 16th July 1649 Parliament passed “An Act for Sale of the Honors, Manors, lands heretofore belonging to the Late King, Queen and Prince”. This enabled the confiscation of the Royal estates, set up the means of running them, until they could be sold, and surveying them. Similar measures were taken for estates belonging to cathedrals⁴ and for forfeited estates, such as those of the Bishop of Durham.⁵ The Commission to investigate all these estates was given the name of “The Committee of Parliament for Removing Obstructions in the Sale of the honors, manors...” etc, generally shortened to the Orwellian “Committee for the Removal of Obstructions.” Amongst the estates in North Yorkshire, which were surveyed, was the Honor of Pickering, which included “Blandesby Park”, parts of Rosedale and tenements in Malton and Goathland.



Background to Sheriff Hutton Park

The manor and ancient deer Park of Sheriff Hutton had passed from the Neville family to the crown, following the death of Richard III. The manor had been granted to Sir Arthur Ingram by James I but royal parks could not be sold and so the Ingram family, who had a disputed grant of the Manor had only a lease of the Deer Park. Sir Arthur (a puritan) had given the lodge and the lease of the Park to his youngest son, Sir Thomas (a Royalist), on Sir Thomas' marriage to Frances Belasyse, daughter of Viscount Fauconberg of Newborough Priory. The Manor of Sheriff Hutton passed to Thomas' eldest half brother, also Sir Arthur (a Parliamentarian). Parliament had fined Sir Thomas for being at the siege of Newark "against the Parliament"⁶ and for deserting his post as Commissioner for Array although the fine had been reduced by half and he never had to pay it anyway. However, a group of London businessmen also had a grant, which they had turned over to a George Kirke.⁷ The situation concerning the Park was not simple and the commissioners not only had to survey it and estimate the value of its various components but had to judge the interest to which each claimant was entitled.

The Survey

My comments are in square brackets. In the transcript, I have used characters, which match as closely as possible those of the script. I have omitted some text, which does not relate directly to the Park and its inhabitants (marked [...]). The Survey document has a cover and six pages, to which are added two extra pages, which resulted from the deliberations of the Committee.

[**The Cover** (not transcribed here) has the title along with the surname of Thomas Colborne, who seems to have been senior surveyor.]

[**Page 1** starts with the statement of the Act and commission under which the survey is taken and follows this with a brief description of where the Park was and which concludes with the size and annual value:]

	<i>acrs: roods: pches:</i>	<i>Anuall value</i>
		£ s d
[.....]and as worth p ann	714: 03: 09:	308 : 00 10

[It then moves to a description of the Lodge, of which only the centre part and the stable block remain in 2005:]

Greate Lodge Aff that Messuage dwelling house or Lodge fairly builte with brick with the aputenutes situate and linige, somewhat, Northeast of the Midst of the said Parke consistinge of Large and handsome Roomes (viz) on the firste ffloore, one Entrey or passage leading out of this Cow" on the, Northweste side of the said howse, into the Garden, on the Southeaste side thereof; one the lefte side of the said entrey, one faire hall, with Large windows, jetinge out uppon the said Cow" one parlour, with a Closett or Studdy adioyninge, and a very faire Chappell at the

[**Page 2]**

upper end of the said hall, on the right side of the said entrey, the Pantrey, one dyneinge roome for servants, with two other necessary roomes over against the parlour doore one faire lodginge Chamber, a nursery and a withdrawinge roome; seaven Stepps descendinge from the entrey, there is one Large and spacious Kitchin with two sellors and other necessary offices: On the seconde floore assendinge by very faire and large stayres out of the entrey into a halfe space, on the right hande, a faire

and lofty dining Roome, one large lodgeinge Chamber, a large and hansome Gallery with a Balcone towards the North, on the left hande, are five hansome lodgeinge Chambers, with foure Closetts; on the Thirde floore ascendinge by other large staires are two great lodgeinge Chambers, and seaven other roomes fitt for lodgeinge or other uses; on the left side the Cou^r are sevall out offices, the said Cou^r is encompassed with a strong and high brick wall, with, a faire gate or entrance thereinto: on the Southeast side of the said house is a very faire garden surrounded with a brick wall like unto the Cou^r, wherein are sevall litle Monmts with Statues thereon placed, at the corner whereof towards the south is a very hansome arbour or place for pleasure coved with leade, and raild aboute, with seavall stepps to ascende^{br}. without the said garden, and adioyninge to the wall on the easts and south easte pts are two litle kithen gardens; Alsoe aboute:20: yards southweste of the said howse there is a hansome large Stable newly builte with a hay lofte and the Groomes chamber over it, at the end whereof is a Brewhowse and on the backside a Coach howse. allwich (exceptinge the stable) conteyne in the whole by measure, one acre, one roode, and six and twenty pches, worth p ann acre: ro:: pch £ s d
1: 01::26 10:00:00

[There was a smaller lodge, on the site of the mediaeval village of East Lilling]

Litle lodge Aff that Tenemt with thaputennces called the Lodge situate and beinge at the south side of the said parke consistinge of a hall a parlour, and three other litle roomes below the stayres, and other three roomes above stayres, a litle stable with a hay howse thereunto adioyninge, one litle barne and a garth or yarde rounde the said tenemt now in the occupacon of Anthony Blanch conteyninge by measure:3: acr :3: roods & 27 pches and is worth p ann 03: 03:27:: 01:00:00

The Contents of the said howses with thaputennces are included in the genall contents of the parke, yet there respective values are to be accounted on and above the genall value of the acres in the parke.

Deere There are within the said parke at presente :189 [180?]: deere of sevall sorts li d
wich wee value to be worth 120 : 00:

Trees The timber trees now standinge and growinge within the said parke (there beinge none marked for the use of the Navie) are in number: 512: : and are worth in grosse uppon the place the tyme of conutinge them into li s d
money considere 345: 04: 00

[Page 3]

The ould decayed trees fitte for litle other than the fire standinge and beinge within the said parke are in number:3222: and are worth in grosse uppon the place li s
the tyme of conutenge them alsoe into money considered 725:01:00

[The park was divided into three major "parcels", each of which was subdivided into closes:]

divisions of the parke The said parke may be and uppon the matter is comodiously sened[?] and divided for the purchasers advantage, into three pts, wch uppon our admeasuremt we have observed and sett fourth as followeth (viz)

1: division Aff that parcell of lande into three pts divided by there several mounde called by the senall names of the horse hagge, the Oaks and the weste: Lawne, lying and being at the weste end of the said parke, bounded on the weste with a certaine piece of grounde called West Lillin green and on the North with the castle of Sheriffhutton aforesaid conteyninge by measure 128:acr:2::roods:11:pches1/2 and is worth by the acre Acr rood pch Annual Value
p ann : 8:00 wch in the whole amountes to 128:02:11 1/2 051:09:00

2: division Aff that other parcell of lande into foure ptes sened with slight mounde
called the Kirk hill, the plain senall, the Bushy severall and the wood, lying
and being in the midst of the said parke betweene the firste and laste
division, bounded on the south, with the feildes, of East Lillin and on the
north with the feilds of Sheriff hutton, and doth conteyne by admeasuremt
366:acr:2:roods:36:pches and halfe a pche, each acre being worth p ann
8' + + + which in the whole amounts to 366:02:36 1/2 : 146 : 15 : 10

3: Division Aff that other pacll of lande lyinge together at the East end of the sd
parke divided from the second division by an ould ditch, beginning at the
pale on the north pte of the said parke, and leadenige to, and alonge by
the fences, of the Easte pte of the said plaine and bushy senalls, and from
there down by another ould ditch to the northwest corner of the
mounde, fencenige the garth belonging to the said litle Lodge and soe
straite alonge by the ditch without the weste side of the said garth
directly to the pale on the south side of the said parke and doth
conteyne by admeasuremt : 219 : acr : 2 : roods : 1 : pch : each acre beinge
worth p ann 10s : wch in the whole amounte to 219 : 02 : 01 : 109 : 16 : 00

Memdm the said messuage or greate Lodge doth stande within the
second division of the said parke, and the litle lodge in the laste
and are conteyned in the respective admeasuremts aforesaid

division of Of the trees valued as aforesaid, there is : 20: of the beste sorte at : 20^u : and
the Trees 442 : of the worste sorte at, 99^u : 01^s : standinge growinge and beinge in
the first division of the said parke, and are, worth together as here by li s d
appeares the somme of 119: 01 : 00

[Page 4]

And : 3229 of them viz 492: of the beste sorte at 325^u ; 04^s : and : 2737 of
the worste sorte at : 619^u : 11^s : standinge growinge and beinge within the second
division of the said parke; and are worth together as hereby pticularly
appeares the somme of 944^u : 15^s : 00^d

The residue thereof being : 43 : are comprehended within the thirde
and laste division of the said parke and are worth 06 : 09 : 00

Memdm the said parke with thaputennce is tithe free as haveinge
not at any tyme beene charged therewith./

[Some of the official positions still remained and were paid - although, as Sir Thomas' brother owned
the Lordship of Sheriff Hutton, it would seem to be a transfer within the family!:]

Sir Thomas Ingram claymeth the Offices of Ranger and Keeper of the said
parke for the naturall lives of Sir Arthure Ingram his father and Sir Arthure
Ingram his brother, and the longer heir of them, together with all fees
and aputennces thereto belonginge. And alsoe claymeth as Ranger the
yearly fee of : 1^u : 6^s : 8^d : and as Keeper : 2^u : p diem payable out of the
Revenue of the Lo^u of Sheriffhutton at Lady day and Mich wch amounte
to p ann 04^u : 07^s : 06^d

furthermore the said Sir Thomas Ingram claymeth the herbage of the
said parke during the said lyves under the yearely rente of 8^u : 13^s : 4^d payable
at Lady day and Mich by equall porcons by lres pattente of King James
dated : 3 : ffebruary : 12 : of his raigne on Englande made to the said Sir Arthure
Ingram and Sir Arthure Ingram duringe the lyves aforesaid, wch herbage
wee estimate to be worth corbz anns 160 : 00 : 00

[Legal penalties were in place for non payment of rent, the length of the lease had to be set and responsibilities of the lessee:]

Vide an Abstract

relating to this Grant on the backside of the shete *There is a provisoie in the said Patente wen that if the rent be not paid within 40 dayes after y^e day of payment, then the lessee's to pay 40^e: noie pene at eny fayler, and the lessor to diffreyne for the rente and the noie pene, and the distresse to keepe till paymt of both./*

The two pattents we have not seene only a paper booke purportinge such a patente hath come to our view.

Redd p ann 5^o *Alsoe the said King James by other lres pattents bearinge date 21: January in the 19: yeare of his raigne over Englande graunts to the said Sir Arthure Ingram all that the said parke of Sheriffhutton wth thapurtennes the herbage of the said parke with thapurtennce, and all howses Lodges and buildings in the said parke, and alsoe the offices of palliser & keeper of the said parke (excepte all trees woods underwoods mynes & quarryes To hold from the decease of the said S^r Arthure Ingram the father and S^r Arthure*

[Page 5]

Ingram the sonne for 40: yeares under the yearely rent of :50^{li}: payable at Lady day and Mich by equall porcons, the firste paymt to begin at such of the said feasts as shall first happen after the decease of the furwewer[?] of the said Sr Arthure the father and Sr Arthure the sonne wch a noie pene of :12^{li}: payable & distreynable for as in the pcedinge patente

The lesser Covennts to keepe and mainteyne from tyme to tyme duringe ye sd terme: 300 deere at the leaste in the said parke

[There were benefits:]

Alsoe the lesser his heires successors & assignes may at his & there wills & pleasures duringe the terme hunte chase kill take and carry such and soe many Bucks & does as he and they please

The lessee is at his coste & charges to repaire meinteyne s[blot] and keepe the lodges howses pales fences walls ponds & baucks duringe the terme and soe to leave them./

The lyssee is (soe soone as this graunte takes effecte) to have out of the trees woods & underwoods uppon the p^rmyss competente houseboote paleboot hedgeboot and fire boote to spend and use uppon the p^rmyss, And alsoe tymbre there, to repayre the said howses lodges & buildings by assente of the supvisor stewarde woodwarde or other officer, and alsoe to cut downe browse wood for the deere and to have the same[farne?] afterwards to his use./

Wth a prisore, that as soone as this graunte takes effect the fees of the Ranger Keeper and palliser and all other fees and charges whatsoen shall cease and be voyde and the lessee to keepe the lessor indempnified by reason of the same, And if this patente be not enrolled within halfe a yeare after the date thereof before the Auditor or his deputy of the County of Yorke there the Lessee to pay :20^{li}: noie pene for eny halfe yeares fayler./

*Sir Arthure the father is deade, Sir Arthure the sonne
is living and of the age of fifty yeares or thereabouts*

[Finally, the vexed question of the other claimants:]

[different hand]

*This clayme to be Mmo M^r Kirk claymeth alsoe the said Parke, and the rents thereof
made good within for his and his wives life, but we have not seene any
the tyme lymittes lease to warrante the same./*

*Order the Commands of the Order of the Committee of Obstructions
dated the forth of May 1650./ Entered on the backside of
this shete ./*

[Page 6, the summary]

Memdo

*Wee value not, the materialls of the said howses and buildinges inregarde of the
estates graunted as aforesaid.,
We compute that the Timber trees beinge; 512; will not meinteyne, the pale
howses and buildinges in and aboute the said park duringe the said terme of
40 yeares graunted to the said Ingrams to commence after there deceases as beforesaid*

*Alsoe wee compute that 1222: of the said:3222: trees fitt only for the fire as
aforesaid, (together with the-thorne-trees and bushes growinge dispersed) in the
said parke, and not herein valued wilbe spent duringe the said terme of :40:
yeares in Bootes viz fire boote & hedgeboote graunted by the said pattente
as aforesaid*

An Abstracte of this Survey

*acr :r: pch . li s d
The number of Acres in the said parke is :714:3:9: the yearle value thereof is 308: 00: 10
The howses with the gardens and yards thereto belonginge over and above
the value of the said acres are worth p ann 011: 00: 00
The totall is 319: 00: 10
The trees in the said parke are valued at 1070: 05: 00
Reprized duringe the psente lease for lives*

The feeding of the :300:

*deere is herein vallued The fees of Ranger and Keeper p ann 4: 07: 06
li s d The herbage of the sd parke over and above the Rente reserved is . . . 151: 06: 08
at 154:13:04 p ann The totall is 155: 14: 02
Tho: Colberne The Anuall Remainder due to the Trustees is 163: 06: 08
Tho: Clarke*

*After the expiracon of the said Lease for lives, and duringe the said pattente for
40: yeares there is only reserved out of the park p ann 050: 00: 00
And for the 2000: trees aver and above the Bootes the summe of 450: 00: 00
And for the deere 120: 00: 00*

[signatures]

*ESp Hailliwel Super gen^{er}
1649*

*Tho: Colberne
Sam: Ayre:
Tho: Clarke*

[Additional Page: On this page, the “Council of Obstructions” decided that George Kirke had a lease of the Lordship Sheriff Hutton and that Sirs Arthur and Thomas Ingram had to pay the rent for the Park (£8/8s/4d) to him. The Council registered its verdict in August 1650]

[Additional Page 2: This page gives a further verdict, which simply allowed Sir Thomas his interest in the Park and the herbage.]

Notes

“Botes” were rights allowed to tenants for the use of wood and timber (“timber” was always of sufficient quality for construction, “wood” may not have been). Usually it is as the use to which the material would be put which resulted in the prefix to “bote”. Hence “paleboote” (Page 5) is the right to wood intended for the park pale, “houseboote” to timber for houses, “hedgeboote” to plants to make hedges, “fireboote” to wood for the fire.⁸ “Herbage” (Page 4) is the grazing rights (no pannage, the right to graze pigs, is mentioned, which might have been inappropriate in a deer park or a lasting relic of the days when boar would have been maintained there for hunting, not domestic swine) and the permission to take feed for use elsewhere.

Summary

Although the survey was comprehensive, the Committee grossly undervalued the Park, perhaps because the Ingram family, reunited after its Civil War division, put one over them. It is possible, however, that the Surveyors accepted reduced values because of the devastation of the nearby country following the Siege of York. The Scottish Covenanters Army had been billeted between York and Scarborough and there had been numerous complaints about depredations⁹ - perhaps understandably, as the soldiers received little pay or supplies and those nearly always in arrears. Perhaps the Society could undertake a combined study of the state of Ryedale following the Civil War.

This Survey, however, gives us a glimpse of the economic life of an ancient deer park, which was ceasing to be one and becoming a small country estate. As the Commissioners had allowed the Ingram family to retain its interest and because the Park was held by Sir Thomas, whereas the Manor was held by Sir Arthur, Junior, they soon became completely separated. Sheriff Hutton became a village in which the real Lord of the Manor lived far away (Temple Newsam, near Leeds) and the holder of the Park took on the role of Squire.

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- ¹ A study of the Deer Park attached to Sheriff Hutton Castle initiated by Sheriff Hutton W. I., Dennison, 2005
- ² National Archives E317/York S/54
- ³ Willan, 1932-4, pp224-289
- ⁴ For example: Ely, see www.lib.cam.ac.uk/MSS/Edc.html
- ⁵ Kirby, 1968/1972 various
- ⁶ Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, Vol. 18 (1895), “Royalist Composition Papers, Vol. 2”, p124
- ⁷ Dennison 2005, Chapter 12, *passim*
- ⁸ Barbara Hickman, “The Management of Sheriff Hutton Park for Timber and Wood” in Dennison, 2005, p148
- ⁹ Discussed in Wenham, 1970, who says that there is little evidence of the outcome of the complaints

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Howsham Mill

by Jeannie Swales

If we are to believe the Oxford English Dictionary, then a folly is a ‘costly structure, considered useless’, and Howsham Mill in North Yorkshire definitely falls outside that definition. Until as recently as the mid-1940s, it was a hard-working watermill, grinding corn for the inhabitants of the nearby Howsham Hall.

But Howsham Mill is a watermill like no other you’ve ever seen - a gothically glamorous eye-catcher for the Hall’s residents, and a fine and rare example of industrial practicality all dressed up as garden furniture. In 1965, a Royal Commission for Historic Monuments inspector, James Williams, praised it as “... a building of great architectural interest as it is a very rare example of the gothic Revival style as applied to a functional building. (I cannot find reference to a similar example).”¹

Sadly, this fascinating building had been allowed to fall into serious disrepair, despite its Grade II listed status, but in 2003, it was purchased by Dave Mann and Mo MacLeod, founders of the Renewable Heritage Trust (RHT), a charity with a twin purpose: ‘breathing new life into old buildings by adapting them to generate clean energy’. Howsham Mill is its first project, and lends itself perfectly to the Trust’s aims and objectives.

Howsham Mill stands on a tiny island in the River Derwent, just downstream from Kirkham Priory. The nearest large centre of population is Malton. There has been a water-powered corn mill at Howsham for centuries - the current mill was built on the site of what is believed to have been a mill of medieval origin. Howsham Hall was constructed in the early 1600s, using stone reputedly plundered from Kirkham Priory, by Sir William Bamburgh. It passed through various branches of the family, and in 1755, was inherited by Nathaniel Cholmley, or Cholmondley, who moved his family from their ancient seat at Whitby to take up residence at the Hall. Sometime over the next five years, Nathaniel decided to rebuild the watermill and, although the attribution is not definite, it is widely believed that he turned to the architect John Carr, of York, whose other designs include the City’s Fairfax House and an extension to the stables at Castle Howard.

Born in 1723 at Horbury near Wakefield, Carr came from a practical background: his father, Robert, was a stonemason and quarry owner in the village. As a young man, John helped his father in the quarry, and worked with him on buildings in the neighbourhood. By the mid-1750s, Carr was possibly the best-known architect in the North of England. His designs for the grandstand at the Knavesmire, York’s racecourse, were chosen over those of the better-known James Paine, and were much admired by the fashionable crowd, which attended the races. His work on York’s Pikelng Well earned him, in 1757, the Freedom of the City (he later became Lord Mayor, in 1770, and again in 1785).

Carr has a reputation as a solid and dependable architect, if a little pedestrian. It’s a view not shared by architectural historian and vice-president of York Georgian Society, Dr Ivan Hall. In a lecture to the society in February 2004, Dr Hall said: “Some of Carr’s critics [have] thought fit to equate [his] consistency with dullness and repetition. It was one of the tenets of the Georgian period to place stress upon balance and regularity, but Carr did not hesitate to break ranks when it seemed to be in the best interests of a patron.” And later: “...Carr developed an idiosyncratic vocabulary that combined and refined the familiar elements of his day without



Figure 1. Howsham Mill: North Elevation
circa late 1930's. Right of picture,
William Day's Grandfather Carl Carr.
Reproduced by kind permission of
Mrs M. Wreghit *née* Carr.



Figure 2. Howsham Mill: South Elevation
Reproduced by kind permission of
Tony Bartholomew

either offending the taste of his patrons, or unduly straining their purses. In consequence he became and long remained one of the Georgian era's leading architects."²

At Howsham, Carr has perhaps allowed the more fanciful side of his nature to take flight. His original square two-storied mill building is brick, with limestone ashlar facing. Its ogee-arched recess has an architrave flanked by pointed windows under square labels, each with a blind quatrefoil above. The pyramidal roof (now gone, but believed to have been in place as recently as the mid-60s) had crocketed finials, and was topped by a four-foot tall lead statue of Diana, goddess of hunting (Figure 1). Rumour had it that she may have found her way to the collection at Castle Howard; discussions with the curator, sadly, proved this not to be the case. Her whereabouts are still unknown, but the Trust lives in hope of unearthing her one day during the excavation of the millpond. The sundial from the south elevation has also long since departed, and although most of the structure of the waterwheel has been extricated from the mud in pieces; happily the original axle is still in situ. The addition of new bearings has meant that it can now turn again, and a new wheel is currently being built to attach to it.

The Mill was in good working order until at least 1947, when the last-known miller, Johnny Braithwaite, gave it up. He had taken it over only the previous year from the miller of 27 years standing, Carl Carr (no relation!). Prior to Carl, there's a bit of gap in the chronology, until we reach 1903-1905 when a Mr Wilson-Remmer was miller. His son, Alfred, recalled hard times at Howsham in a fascinating interview he gave to the *Yorkshire Evening Press* in 1966, at which time he was 85.

"I heard it said that if you had a grudge against anyone, you should give him a windmill," he said. "But as I sat along with my father [at Howsham Mill], with sacks bound round our feet, sacks over our knees and sacks round our shoulders, waiting for the flood waters to subside, I used to think it would have been as well if he was given a watermill!

Father would pick up the smoking, smelly torch and go to look once more at the pit-wheel. Another three inches fall, and the wheel would begin to turn. Then it started to rain heavily again, so with weary hearts, we went to our home, which was a mile away."³

One of Mr Wilson-Remmer the elder's predecessors at Howsham was William Day, who is recorded as miller in 1891. In an interesting twist of fate, two of his great-grandchildren, Eileen Barker and William Day (who is also, via a different branch of the family, the grandson of Carl Carr), are involved in the RHT - Eileen as a trustee and William as a Friend. And, wheels within wheels, if you'll forgive the pun, the RHT's Patron is local landowner Sir Frederic Strickland-Constable, a descendant of the Strickland family who owned Howsham Hall from the 1860s until its sale in 1948 (it subsequently stood empty until sold again in the late 50s, after which it became the prep school it still is today).

Today, Howsham Mill stands derelict and, until recently, neglected. The roof is gone, the wheel is in pieces - the building is a shell, until last year so overgrown that many Howsham 'incomers' weren't even aware of its existence.

But work has started under the auspices of the RHT. Much of the vegetation, which was proving so damaging to the fabric of the building (Figure 2), has been cleared, and work has started on the excavation of the mill-race. Every first Sunday in the month up to 60 volunteers can be found clearing rubble and digging out the beautifully-traced stones to be carefully

numbered and stored for the day when rebuilding can start. Tons of mud, rubbish and vegetation have been removed from within the Mill's walls to reveal the original stone-flagged floors – the building is gradually re-emerging after years of neglect. In the not too distant future, if all goes according to plan, the Mill will be an educational resource and community centre, promoting renewable energy and a more sustainable way of life (Figure 3).

The restored waterwheel will again harness the power of the fast-flowing river Derwent, but now, instead of driving millstones, it will drive a hydro-electric unit to generate electricity. Together with two state-of-the-art Archimedean Screw turbines, the centre will generate enough power to supply up to 70 homes, saving the production of 170 tons of carbon per year, and potentially making Howsham the first carbon-neutral village in England. The income from selling the power will be used to fund future restoration and conservation work at the site.



Figure 3. Idris Walters artistic impression of Howsham Mill: South Elevation.
Reproduced by kind permission of the Renewable Heritage Trust.

For further information on the RHT project, please call Dave or Mo on (01653) 619748, or take a look at www.rht.greenisp.org

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- ¹ James Williams, Royal Commission for Historic Monuments Report, September 1965.
- ² Dr Ivan Hall, 'John Carr – The Unorthodox architect' *York Georgian Society Annual Report* 2004.
- ³ Ronald Willis, 'Wind in the sails meant work in the creaking mill', *Yorkshire Evening Press*, 18th February 1966.

Reviews

Wharram: a Study of Settlement on the Yorkshire Wolds, IX. The North Manor Area and North-West Enclosure.

by P. A. Rahtz and L. Watts

Publisher: York University Archaeological Publications, 2004.

ISBN: 0946722196

Price: £22.00 (Hardcover)

Wharram publications get bigger with every volume, so it seems. The latest, the North Manor and North-West enclosure report, has been ably co-ordinated and largely written by Philip Rahtz and Lorna Watts, ringmasters to a tremendous circus (no fewer than 41 other names appear on the title page as contributors). The volume stands as a tribute to John Hurst, to whom it is dedicated, and now, sadly, is also a memorial to Maurice Beresford who died late in 2005. It is a *tour de force*, not only as a site report, but also as the latest locus for synthesis on the Wharram project and its wider significance.

The North Manor is set in its geomorphological, topographical and historical context and then we begin on the detailed reportage of the excavations. The phases have been collated into broad historical horizons, here described as master periods, of which there are six, stretching from pre-Iron Age through to the post-medieval, with Master Period 5 split into earlier and later medieval. There follow standard site reports on each of the trenches excavated in the North Manor Area, well-illustrated and detailed reports on the pottery, the small finds, the ironworking and the environmental evidence and finally a discussion which considers the site as a whole and to which I will return. The North-west enclosure report is similarly structured, although, being a much less productive area, the site and finds reports are all contained in one chapter, with a brief discussion at the end, that notes the peripheral nature of the site which seems to have enjoyed a brief period of activity beginning in the 2nd century but which was disused by the end of the Roman period and became a burial area. Had this been the only focus of archaeological activity on the north plateau, our view of Wharram would have been very different: as Stuart Wrathmell notes, 'the lesson here may be the obvious one: that excavating only a small part of a settlement may be misleading'.

To return, then, to the more intensively used North Manor site. My own period interest is in the later medieval and a great ambition would be to return to the site and investigate the manorial buildings in more detail. Rahtz and Watts note that there remain problems of interpretation here that can only be resolved by further and more extensive excavation, but it is clear that this is the site of a major manorial complex. The hall is identified and partially excavated, with finds of wall plaster confirming its high status. The authors note that 'it seems to be agreed that the North Manor was replacement for the South Manor', although their own discussion of a possible precursor high status complex in 11th and 12th century must cast some doubt on this, as must the documentary evidence that there were two manors at Wharram.

Interestingly, what is missing from the discussion of the final phase of the North Manor site is the broader context that is so magnificently provided for the earlier phases and which make this report a major contribution to the wider archaeological agenda for Yorkshire and the north. I read with enormous interest the broad discussions of the regional context for the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods which explained carefully the current debates and the place of the Wharram evidence within them – and not just the North Manor material but the earlier

work elsewhere on the site which is recapitulated and reviewed with close referencing back to the earlier reports. This is a very major contribution to the archaeology of the north of England. It is important that it is recognised as such, and included in reading lists for undergraduates as a valuable work of synthesis. It is odd that the schema (an opening discussion of the evidence for the region and current hypotheses about continuity and change in settlement patterns, followed by a review of earlier Wharram material and ending with a discussion of the contribution of the North Manor site to the debate) is not pursued through to the latest phases (MP5a and 5b, here named the earlier and later medieval but which might perhaps have been better termed high and late medieval to avoid confusion since early medieval is generally now applied to the post-Roman centuries). Perhaps this reflects the fact we later medieval archaeologists have tended not to engage in broad theoretical discussions of the implications of our material, contenting ourselves rather with either thick description or, latterly, rather disconnected theoretical approaches that consider the importance of the material in the construction of social worlds generally, but do not address the specific economic and social developments of the period, a problem we have tended to leave to the historians. It is ironic that the momentum for placing the site in its wider context is lost precisely at the chronological moment of the very first research question posed by Beresford back in 1948. But the material is there to be worked on, in the form of the Wharram archive, of the site itself (and the more recent English Heritage re-survey of the earthworks produced in 2004 too late to be taken into account for this volume shows the potential for further work) and in the archaeological and historical evidence for the regional economy in the later medieval period. In this magnificent volume, which not only reports on the excavations in full but provides a model of scholarly discussion and demonstrates the value of long-term research, Wharram, as ever, sets the agenda for the next generation.

Dr. J. Grenville
University of York

Editor's note: For readers interested in the 2004 re-survey see: Oswald, Alastair, (2004) *Wharram Percy deserted medieval village, North Yorkshire: archaeological investigation and survey*, English Heritage, (Archaeological investigation report series, ISSN: 1478-7008).

Water from the Moors: The Life and Works of Joseph Foord

by Isabel Anne McLean

Publisher: North York Moors National Park Authority, 2005.

ISBN 1-904622-05-4

Price: £17.95 (Paperback)

This is a remarkable book about a remarkable subject, one unique to this area though largely forgotten for many years – the bringing of a water supply in the mid eighteenth century from the desolate high moors where it was abundant, south to where it was most needed by people and their animals.

Even though there was no natural running water the limestone uplands above Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside attracted early settlers because the land was so fertile. But the getting of water for the farms and villages that grew up was a constant struggle: the wells were so deep hard labour was required to bring up buckets to fill the cisterns and troughs on which the families relied, while their cattle had to be driven down to the valley every day to drink at the river. Then in the 1740's a self taught engineer, Joseph Foord, observing that the source lay some 300 to 400 feet higher than the villages, began to construct a series of rills, or races, to bring the water several miles across the moors to serve Gillamoor and Fadmoor, (and, in due course, Kirkbymoorside) Carlton, Pockley, Rievaulx, Old Byland and Lastingham.

No machinery of any kind was used; there were no pipes: the water proceeded by gravity along shallow dug courses whose average gradient was only 1 in 100. Because of this, beside carts breaking down the banks, the chief impediment to a regular supply was cold weather when the slow running water often froze. A waterman had to be employed to keep constant watch.

The first coming of the water to the villages must have been a marvel and a cause for rejoicing but, as with public works in our time, it soon came to be taken for granted. It was relied upon for more than a hundred years until, in the late 19th century, mechanical rams and pipes were cheap enough to become widespread. The Carlton supply was the last to fall out of use in 1960. The races became overgrown, vanishing where they cross arable land but can still be seen on the open moor and along steep hillsides. Sadly, one of the best-known lengths, the aqueduct at Bonfield Gill was destroyed by the devastating floods in the summer of 2005.

The first detailed account of Foord's work, by John Grayson, was published in 1963 as one of a series of essays by members of Helmsley Archaeological Society. Edited by the late John McDonnell, the knowledge acquired in the course of writing the book in which they were collected; '*A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District*' gave rise to further publication in the following years in the form of a Journal, *The Ryedale Historian*. In 1996 a member of the Society, Isabel McLean, a frequent contributor, won the Yorkshire History Prize for her account of the life of Joseph Foord and his illegitimate son. This, she was the first to discover, was the celebrated Methodist preacher Joseph Pilmore, whose career was mostly in the United States. These biographical accounts are from the first two parts of 'Water from the Moors'; the third is devoted to the water races.

'The approach has been three pronged', Isabel explains in her Preface to this section: 'to work with manuscript sources primarily in the Duncombe Park estate archive held at the North Yorkshire County Record Office in Northallerton: to walk the moors and farms over which the

races ran: and to quarry the memories of many farmers and local people whose stories of the races elucidate how they functioned'. This self imposed task, carried out over nearly ten years, has given Isabel the opportunity to demonstrate an enviable range of skill and knowledge. A (no doubt) hard won familiarity with the archives held by, among many others, the Borthwick Institute and the North Yorkshire County Record Office has produced many surprises and makes for a clear and easy style. Her persistence in seeking out people who had something to contribute to her subject brings life to the written archive. But the greatest pleasure of this book to my mind is the way in which the author allows the reader to monitor the continual process for evaluating evidence: a fine common sense rules throughout. Patience too and a good deal of stamina went into the tracing on the ground of the pathway of each race; Isabel and friends walked the length of them, identifying springs and weirs, noting where the aqueducts were placed and in what manner the embankments, offlets and spillways were constructed.

Such a comprehensive account requires expertise in many areas – local history, topography, botany, geology and the practice of surveying. Self taught like Joseph Foord, with - like him - a keen eye for the lie of the land, Isabel McLean is the best possible interpreter of a remarkably imaginative 18th century enterprise. Beautifully produced and with a wealth of maps and other illustrations, as well as immensely valuable notes on sources, 'Water from the Moors' is an impressive contribution to the increasingly extensive literature of the North York Moors.

Anne Taylor

A Womble Borehole

by Isabel Anne McLean.

In 'Water from the Moors: The Life and Works of Joseph Foord' I was forced, whenever I referred to the man-made stone or wooden apertures which regulated water passing from one water race to another, to trot out the alternatives "woomble bord [bore?] holes". This was because the original manor court document had been lost and a transcription made forty years ago was uncertain as to the spelling in the handwritten script of c1757 (see page 98 of *Water from the Moors*).

I am now able (just too late for publication in April) to clarify the proper usage and spelling of these words. A recent article by Carol B. Cook quotes the following diary entry of 1694:

Scarthwood water course cannot be cut or stolen from me but at the stone in the highway to the Scarthnick which has a womble borehole in it that is but to have halfe of the said water and I have the other halfe of all water or spring...¹

The diarist, Thomas Mauleverer was an educated man, no doubt better able to spell correctly than the jury of the Kirbymoorside manor court of c1757. This particular womble borehole had clearly been bored through stone.

Reference

¹ Cook, C. B., 2004, 'The early leather trade in the Whorlton (Swainby) area', *Cleveland History*, no87, p29.

History of Appleton-le-Moors: A 12th Century Planned Village

by Margaret Allison

pp.256; 16 maps; 15 photographs

ISBN: 0-904775-42-9

Price: £15.45 (includes p.+ p.), (Paperback)

Obtainable from: M. Allison, Hamley, Appleton-le-Moors, North Yorkshire YO62 6TG.

The village of Appleton-le-Moors has for many years excited the interest of historical geographers as one of the best examples of a planned medieval village layout in England. With its remarkably uniform village plan; its classic open fields, fossilised in the modern landscape; its fringe of assarts and historic woodlands and its still unenclosed common pasture, it is no surprise to find maps and air photographs appearing in many publications, yet until now no attempt has been made to explain the origins and development of this rich landscape. Mrs Allison is supremely well equipped to undertake the task. She has a detailed knowledge of the topography of the village, where she and her husband have farmed for many years, together with a thorough grasp of the documentary sources for all periods, the latter fostered by wide reading and a readiness to seek expert advice at every turn.

The book is not intended to be a complete "Local History" of Appleton. As the sub-title indicates, it is focussed on the development of the man-made landscape, particularly from the Middle Ages onwards. As a piece of landscape history it is a model of its kind and should find a place on the shelves of every landscape historian, although its very close and detailed arguments will perhaps make it hard to attract a wide readership.

After a brief but concise introduction to geology and prehistory, Mrs Allison moves on to consider the medieval topography of the village in general, and from there to a series of themes carried through from the earlier middle ages to modern times: Fields; Place-names; Woodlands; Boundaries; Roads; Hedges and Houses. These are followed by a study of a number of sites and features in adjacent townships. Finally a series of important documents used in the study are presented in an Appendix, together with the results of a very-complete Hedgerow Survey. There are no footnotes but an excellent bibliography, glossary and index.

Much of the medieval research is based on an unpublished cartulary of St Mary's Abbey, York, forty-three folios of which relate to Appleton. These documents provide a remarkably detailed picture of field-arrangements in the village between the late twelfth and early fifteenth centuries, although they are not easy to interpret. The two (later three) common fields are rarely mentioned, while the properties, many of them very small, are usually described by the furlong rather than by the field. Mrs Allison has however skilfully identified the location of a high proportion of the furlong names and placed them convincingly in the appropriate field-divisions. If any criticism may be offered, it is that the medieval fields are depicted at their fullest stage of development without the issue of their origins being fully addressed. It is surprising to find that the remaining rigg-and-furrow, the form of which might throw some light on questions of origins and early development, is the one feature in the Appleton landscape, which does not appear to have been fully examined.

It has long been known that the village contained within its boundaries the Domesday vill of *Baschebi*, which was finally amalgamated with Appleton sometime in the thirteenth century. While the precise site of the settlement remains uncertain, Mrs Allison has convincingly reconstructed its boundaries, in an exercise, which should do much to stimulate further research

on this important subject, bearing as it does on the changeover from scattered to nucleated settlement-patterns. The element of planning in the regular toft-compartments on each side of the village has also been convincingly demonstrated, with the astute use of the St Mary's charters, a good cause is made for the position of the medieval manor house and chapel.

For the Early Modern Period, the chronology of piecemeal enclosure, a difficult and much-neglected topic, has been carefully worked out using the evidence of rentals, wills and glebe terriers. The study of the woodlands, located on a belt of clay surrounding the fields on three sides, is impeccable. With the help of a detailed Wood Survey made in 1552 (printed in an Appendix), and impressive length of woodland boundaries has been traced to the south of the village. I would however take issue with Mrs Allison's interpretation of the *Cat*-element, which she interprets as Celtic in origin (Welsh "coed"). It is more likely to be derived from the Old Norse personal name *Kati*, of which there are numerous examples in north-east Yorkshire.

The author recognises that both the woods and the commons of Appleton can only be fully understood in relation to the Abbot of St Mary's Forest of Spaunton, of which Appleton was technically a part, and to the neighbouring Royal Forest of Pickering, and she has assiduously sifted through all the available data for both. The evidence for boundaries, roads and hedges has been thoroughly assessed, both in the field and through the documents. The hedgerow survey is a most impressive piece of work, involving the sampling of over five hundred thirty-yard lengths. Such a survey is a rare occurrence in northern England where it still widely assumed that the dating-criteria successfully applied in the South would not work in our supposedly barren and frozen wastes. Mrs Allison has however convincingly demonstrated sequences of hedges going back to the middle ages if not to a precise century. The survey has benefited hugely from the author's local knowledge of recent hedge-removal and re-planting.

The chapter on village houses and garths is of great length – no less than ninety-four pages – and draws on a remarkably wide range of sources. While the buildings themselves are described only in so far as they have been listed or surveyed by English Heritage, Mrs Allison has traced the history of each house and garth and of the land associated with each farm, over several centuries. This has clearly been a labour of love, the results of which will be of considerable interest to family historians and students of social and tenurial structure, but it is rather hard going for the reader without an intimate acquaintance with the village. In the first part of the chapter, Mrs Allison does attempt to draw all this disparate information together, but the eighty-page progress round the garths and houses of the village does cause some loss of focus away from the big issues that make this study so valuable.

This book is a very neat production, with simple but well-drawn and highly informative maps, and a good selection of photographs, all of which are closely related to the adjacent text. If the writing is a little staccato in places – due largely to an over-indulgence in sub-headings – the content is usually so worthwhile that such interruptions in the flow of the text can easily be forgiven.

With this book, Mrs Allison has made an important contribution to our understanding of the landscape, not just Appleton but of other apparently planned settlements within – and far beyond – north eastern Yorkshire. It is to be hoped that it will attract the wide readership, which it so richly deserves.

Barry Harrison

Within The Pale: The Story of Sheriff Hutton Park

by the Sheriff Hutton Women's Institute Community Pale Project.

Edited by Ed Dennison.

ISBN: 1-85072-332-X

Price: £15.00 (Paperback)

This work grew out of a fairly modest project, first mooted in 2003 by the local Women's Institute, to produce a pictorial map of the deer park at Sheriff Hutton. Thanks to a handsome grant from the Local Heritage Initiative, the authors (of whom there are about ten) were able to spread themselves over their various subjects in a way which they could not have originally envisaged. The result is a sizable volume which (*pace* its title) is to some extent – and in the literal sense only – beyond the pale. This is easy to justify: as the editor says at the outset, the park can only be fully understood in the context of village and castle and hall and all of these are explored thoroughly in the course of the book.

Sheriff Hutton is exceptionally interesting as a village, a historian's and archaeologist's delight, boasting not one but two castles, the earlier, Norman one vanished but for the suggestive mounds and ridges overlooking the church, the later one a spectacular (and now, fortunately, stable) ruin; a comfortably sprawling ancient church which may be the burial place of a son of Richard III; a deserted medieval settlement (East Lilling); a former market place, now a sloping green, but significantly still called Pavement Hill; a Jacobean hall, several times remodelled, with the most decorative wall-ties of any house I have seen; the site of a civil war skirmish; close associations with celebrated figures like Warwick the Kingmaker, John Skelton, Edward IV's poet laureate, King Richard III, Henry Fitzroy, the bastard son of King Henry VIII, and Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, the victor of Flodden; a Victorian squire, overwhelmed by debt, who took his own life. The village even has a Finkle Lane, which no self-respecting Northern town or village should be without (Sheriff Hutton's has *two* sharp bends, which makes it over qualified, one elbow being sufficient to make it a finkle).

What riches, then, for the historian! All of this is investigated with great thoroughness by the authors. The growth, and decay, of the two castles is charted in considerable detail, mirroring the rise and fall of Sheriff Hutton's two great medieval families, the Bulmers and the Nevilles. The deer park grew as the Nevilles increased in power and influence during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, reaching its peak in the late fifteenth century under the last of the Nevilles, the over-ambitious Earl of Warwick, killed at Barnet in 1471. Sheriff Hutton then passed to the Crown and in early Tudor times the castle enjoyed considerable importance as a centre for the Council of the North. The park then supported perhaps 300 deer. It was still important as a supplier of timber. Although the park continued to expand in area up to the second half of the seventeenth century, a significant proportion had already been enclosed by then and its great days as an arena for hunting deer had long gone.

One well-illustrated chapter introduces the reader to the lore of the medieval deer park and its use – the construction of the pale, the ingenious deer-leap that allowed the animal to enter the park but not to leave it, the management of the pasture and timber within the park, the specialised breeds of dog which flushed out the deer, pursued and brought it to bay, the elaborate ritual surrounding the despatch of the quarry and its disposal (called with poetic but brutal aptness, 'the unmaking'). Given the transformation of the park centuries ago from open pasture and woodland to enclosed fields and the paucity of evidence about, for example, the

site of the park lodge, the reader has to use his/her imagination to apply all of this to Sheriff Hutton's park, but long stretches of the park boundary can still be traced and diligent fieldwork has even uncovered an underground venison larder (at Lodge Farm). Where archaeology and the documents are silent, fieldnames come to the rescue. They reveal much about the extent and character of the park, with their wonderfully evocative names: Postern, Horse Hagg, Sturdy Oak, Switchen Close, Little Sawtry, Bushy Lawnd.

Much more is known about the third family (after the Bulmers and the Nevilles) with a long association with the village and park: these were the Thompsons, socially ambitious merchants who had made their money from the wine trade in York and who now required a country seat to establish themselves in the ranks of the gentry. They adapted the Jacobean house in the middle of the park, which had been built by their predecessors the Ingram's (There is some fascinating speculation here about possible influences on the Ingrams' more famous seat, Temple Newsam, which escaped the modernisation that Sheriff Hutton was subjected to in the 1730's). By this time, the Nevilles' great castle was in an advanced state of decay, accelerated by its use as a free quarry, and large tracts of the deer park had already been enclosed. Several of the Thompsons emerge from this account as rounded (if not altogether admirable) characters, for example, George (1717-75), who was very active in the social and political life of York, but who landed himself in severe legal trouble through his Jacobite-bating; and the archetypal over-spender of a century later, the unfortunate Leonard, who, unable to see any way out of his financial difficulties, hung himself.

A huge amount of research has gone into this book and the authors must be congratulated for this (so must the very numerous members of the local community who have contributed in a range of ways, from field-walking to recording oral history). However, there are places in this book where the sheer weight of information slows down the narrative thrust: some ruthless pruning would not have come amiss.

Ed Dennison said at the launch of this book in November (2005) that the authors had only scratched the surface of the subject, that many problems remained unsolved and that several of the book's conclusions were only tentative. This is too modest an assessment: this book, like any really good history, will transform lives. No-one walking (or even driving) through Sheriff Hutton, having read this book, will be able to view the village in quite the same light. Layers of history are unpeeled, relating to village, castle, hall and of course deerpark that will open the eyes and enrich the lives of readers. Sheriff Hutton is deeply indebted to all of those who have contributed to this project.

J. P. G. Taylor

Recent Publications

The People's Laird: A Life of Robert Bontine Cunningham Graham 1852 – 1936

by Anne Taylor

Publisher: The Tobias Press.

ISBN: 0-9549635-0-4 (Paperback)

Price: £15.00

To be reviewed in the next issue

Forthcoming Publications

The River Derwent in North Yorkshire

by John Farquhar

Price £9.00

A travelogue from the Derwent's source to mouth – exploring its history and natural environment. *To be reviewed in the next issue.*

John McDonnell: a bibliography

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